

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /092 W

----- 010328

R 041400Z SEP 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2316

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ME, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQI REACTION TO SINAI SETTLEMENT

1. SUMMARY: OFFICIAL IRAQI REACTION TO THE SINAI AGREEMENT HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY NEGATIVE. THE US HAS BEEN DENOUNCED AS THE ARCH ENEMY OF THE ARAB PEOPLE AND THE PROPOSAL TO STATION AMERICAN CIVILIANS IN THE SINAI PASSES IS SEEN AS THE FIRST STEP TO THE INTRODUCTION OF A US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE ARAB HEARTLAND. END SUMMARY.

2. IRAQI TELEVISION ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSCAST AT 22 HOURS MONDAY SEPTEMBER FIRST CARRIED AS LOW-KEY SIXTH ITEM ANNOUNCE-  
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MENT OF SIGNING OF INTERIM ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN SETTLEMENT ON

SINAI. TREATMENT WAS ABSOLUTELY NON-COMMITAL IN TONE AND COMMENTARY WAS NIL.

3. ALL SUBSEQUENT COMMENTARY HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN UNIFORMLY NEGATIVE.

4. THE BAGHDAD OFFICE OF AL-FATEH IMMEDIATELY DENOUNCED AGREEMENT AND PROMISED THAT PALESTINIANS WILL DO ALL THEY CAN TO UNDERMINE IT. CALLED UPON ALL PROGRESSIVE ARAB REGIMES TO OPPOSE ACCORD. SAID QUOTE NEW AGREEMENT USHERS IN BEGINNING OF ACTUAL AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE ARAB REGION WITH THE AMERICAN MILITARY BASE BEING BUILT UNDER THE SCREEN OF OBSERVATION STATIONS. THIS AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE WILL SERVE NOT ONLY TO SPY ON ARAB ARMIES BUT IS FIRST STEP TO AN ENLARGED AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE. UNQUOTE

5. HEADLINE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE BAGHDAD OBSERVER FOR SEPTEMBER THIRD SAYS "KISSINGER'S SCHEMINGS COULD NOT UNDERMINE UNITY OF ARAB MASSES"; HEADLINE OF SEPTEMBER FOURTH ISSUE READS: "ABSP (ARAB BAATH SOCIALIST PARTY) NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONDEMN SINAI AGREEMENT." SAME ISSUE GIVES GIST OF RECENTLY COMPOSED PARTY LEADERSHIP "WHITE PAPER" ACCUSING SYRIA OF LETTING EGYPT RUN INTERFERENCE FOR DAMASCUS REGIME AND TEACHING LATTER HOW TO DEAL WITH ISRAELIS.

6. FOUR-COLUMN EDITORIAL IN SEPTEMBER 3 BAGHDAD OBSERVER INCLUDES FOLLOWING: QUOTE WHAT AFFECTS ONE ARAB, AFFECTS ALL ARABS. IN MODERN TIMES THE CENTRAL ISSUE AFFECTING ALL ARABS IS THE PALESTINE QUESTION...(ENTIRE ARAB WORLD) NOT ONLY REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE IT (ISRAEL) BUT PLEDGED DETERMINATION TO ERADICATE THIS FOREIGN BODY THROUGH WAGING A PROTRACTED STRUGGLE UNTIL FINAL VICTORY...(IN OCTOBER 1973 WAR THE ARABS) FIRST AND FOREMOST DESTROYED THE 'MYTH OF ZIONIST INVINCIBILITY'. SECONDLY, THE WAR REVIVED ARAB MORALE WHICH HAD SUFFERED AFTER THE 1967 DEBACLE. THIRDLY, WITH ALL ITS SHORTCOMINGS, THE WAR DECISIVELY CHANGED THE TREND OF EVENTS IN THE ARAB AREA.....THE ZIONIST THEMSELVES ADMITTED THAT THEIR CASUALTY NUMBER WAS HIGHER THAN THOSE SUFFERED IN PREVIOUS WARS. ECONOMICALLY THE OCTOBER WAR LEFT THE ZIONIST ENTITY VIRTUALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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BANKRUPT. TODAY THOSE IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE PAY THE HIGHEST TAXES IN THE WORLD. DIPLOMATICALLY THE ZIONIST ENTITY FACED INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION AND SANCTION UNPRECEDENTED IN MODERN HISTORY--EXCEPT FOR RACIST SOUTH AFRICA.

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ISSUE THAT CONCERNS EVERY ARAB. THEY ARE THE PRODUCT OF ARAB DETERMINATION...THEY ARE NOT THE PRODUCT OF 'SOMEBODY'S GENEROSITY' OR OF 'SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY'..IN THE MIDST OF THIS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, HOWEVER, THERE APPEARS A LINE OF THOUGHT STEERING A COURSE DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THE BASIC INTERESTS OF THE ARAB MASSES: A LINE OF THOUGHT WHICH IS ENABLING THE ZIONIST ENTITY TO RECOVER FROM ITS MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC SET--BACKS AND ENABLING US IMPERIALISM--THE ARCH ENEMY OF THE ARAB PEOPLE--TO GAIN A MILITARY FOOTHOLD IN THE ARAB HOMELAND. THIS LINE IS PURSUED BY THOSE CURRENTLY WORKING OUT 'INTERIM' OR 'PARTIAL' OR 'STEP-BY-STEP' SETTLEMENT WITH THE ZIONIST ENTITY THROUGH THE MEDIATION OF US IMPERIALISM. THE ARAB TERRITORY FROM WHICH THE ZIONISTS WILL WITHDRAW IN

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THE SINAI...IS NEGLIGIBLE. AFTER WITHDRAWING THE ZIONISTS WILL STILL BE OCCUPYING MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF THE SINAI PENINSULA. BUT FOR THIS NEGLIGIBLE WITHDRAWAL THE ZIONISTS HAVE DEMANDED A POLITICAL PRICE...HOWEVER, (AMONG) THE MORE SERIOUS ASPECTS OF THE DEAL IS THE INTRODUCTION OF US IMPERIALISM MILITARILY IN THE AREA. THE MANNING OF 'EARLY WARNING SYSTEM' IN THE SINAI PASSES BY AMERICANS--BEARS BAD TIDINGS. WE HAVE SEEN WHAT US MILITARY PRESENCE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD LED TO FOR THE PEOPLE OF THOSE COUNTRIES. AGREEING TO INVITE THEM AFTER SUCH WORLDWIDE EXPERIENCE TANTAMOUNTS (SIC) TO INVITING SUICIDE\* US IMPERIALISM AND THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE ARAB MASSES DO NOT GO HAND IN HAND. THEY ARE ANTAGONISTIC FORCES. THE US HAS NEVER RESPECTED THE RIGHTS OF THE ARAB MASSES, NOR DOES IT DO SO NOW. TO BELIEVE THAT THIS ENEMY HAS CHANGED ITS SPOTS IS TO HARBOR A DANGEROUS ILLUSION. UNQUOTE.

5. ALL MEDIA OF SEPTEMBER THIRD AND FOURTH GIVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO INTERVIEW GIVEN BY RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN TO FRENCH JOURNAL PARIS MATCH IN ANTICIPATION OF HIS CURRENT VISIT TO FRANCE. INTER ALIA SADDAM IS QUOTED AS SAYING THE FOLLOWING ABOUT THE ANTICIPATED SINAI AGREEMENT: QUOTE IN OUR VIEW, THE ONLY SOLUTION IS THE IMMEDIATE, UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE ZIONIST ENEMY FROM ALL THE ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED AFTER JUNE 5, 1967...THE ATTEMPT (BY THE US TO IMPLEMENT PARTIAL SOLUTIONS) DOES NOT DEAL WITH THE ROOT AND CAUSE OF THE ORIGINAL PROBLEM OF EARLIER DATE, I.E. OCCUPATION OF ARAB PALESTINE BY ZIONISM AND FORCEFUL EVICTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FROM THEIR OWN SOIL...HE PROPOSED SOLUTIONS WILL HAVE NO RADICAL EFFECT NOR WILL THEY HELP TO CREAT A STABLE ATMOSPHERE IN THE AREA AS THEY DO NOT RESTORE RIGHTS TO THE LAWFUL OWNERS. UNQUOTE.

6. FINALLY, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC MENTION TO THIS EFFECT, THERE IS A WIDESPREAD AND WIDELY BELIEVED RUMOR AFOOT THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN REFUSED TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT'S RECENTLY DESPATCHED ENVOY WHO WAS SENT TO EXPLAIN THE EGYPTIAN VIEWPOINT ON THE SINAI SETTLEMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750310-0003  
**From:** BAGHDAD  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750981/aaaactzw.tel  
**Line Count:** 209  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 MAR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 MAR 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2004 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IRAQI REACTION TO SINAI SETTLEMENT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, IZ, EG, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006